

# Wayne Allard

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## ALLARD INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO CREATE RESEARCH CENTERS TO MANAGE FORESTS GOAL OF LEGISLATION IS TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), a member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ), a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, on Monday introduced legislation to create three new centers to apply fire policy and research to national forests in the West. The purpose of the centers would be to produce policies to prevent future wildfires and preserve critical habitat.

“We can not afford to continue to sit by and watch our forest’s burn,” said Allard. “We need to be proactive and apply the science and research we currently have to properly manage our forests.”

In May, Senator Allard fought to keep similar language in the Farm Bill’s Forestry Title, but the language was stripped out of the Farm Bill by the House-Senate Conference Committee.

“39 million acres of our National Forest lands in the Interior West are at high risk of catastrophic wildfires,” added Allard. “We need to further study and apply good scientific forest management practices to preserve our forests and prevent the type of devastating wildfires that have taken place this year in Colorado, Arizona and other western states.”

The Allard-Kyl legislation would provide \$15 million toward the establishment of ecological research institutes in Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. The centers would work with land managers to implement forest-restoration treatments and develop ecologically-based forest restoration policies to reduce the loss of critical habitat and protect woodlands from future fires.

Last week, Allard worked with the U.S. Forest Service to provide the 2.9 million acre Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest in Colorado with funding to help implement a pilot program to use techniques to reduce forest fires and diversify forest species.

U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman(D-NM), Pete Dominici (R-NM) and Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) signed onto the legislation as original co-sponsors.

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